A/AC.172/1997/CRP.5
30 July 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES
Substantive session of 1997
25, 26 and 28 August 1997
Agenda item 2 (b) (iv)

CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS: COST ACCOUNTING SYSTEM FOR CONFERENCE SERVICES: COST OF CONFERENCE SERVICES UTILIZED IN THE YEAR CONCLUDED BY SUBSIDIARY ORGANS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Note by the Secretariat

1. In its resolution 51/211 C of 18 December 1996, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report, through the Committee on Conferences, to each subsidiary organ of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on the cost of conference services it utilized in the year concluded in order to enable those organs to plan more effectively. The present note contains the requested costing information.

2. With a view to meeting the request of the General Assembly, the method used in 1995 and 1997 to compile the synoptic report on services provided by sector for previous years has been applied in the table below. The method is based on an apportionment among the bodies concerned of actual expenditures incurred by Conference Services during the year under review.

3. In 1996 actual expenditures amounted to a total of $112,365,000. However, that figure covers some services that are not provided to the subsidiary bodies listed in the present note, such as official correspondence, official records editing and copy-preparation and proof-reading services in their entirety, as well as most of the verbatim reporting activity. Expenditures for these services are therefore excluded, yielding a total expenditure level of $98,727,000 in 1996. This amount includes expenditures recorded under "Office of the Director", which comprise temporary assistance for the General Assembly. The expenditures have been prorated among the services provided as discussed in this note.

4. The amount of $98,727,000 has been broken down into two categories: (a) meeting and interpretation services, $17,946,000; and (b) documentation services, $80,781,000.

5. In order to determine the amount of 1996 expenditures incurred by each body, two indicators were used: the percentage of the total number of meetings with interpretation (for category (a)) and the percentage of the total translation output (for category (b)) attributable to each body.

6. Using this method of estimation, therefore, if a body received 1 per cent of the total number of meetings with interpretation held in New York in 1996 and 1 per cent of the total translation output done during the same year, the expenditures attributable to it would amount to $987,270 (1 per cent of $17,946,000, plus 1 per cent of $80,781,000).

7. The data under documentation services cover only the materials issued under the particular symbol of each body.

8. The information gathered using this procedure appears in the table below.

Table. Estimated percentage of total conference services provided and resulting expenditures attributable to different subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council for 1996

Subsidiary organ	(a) Meeting and interpretation services (Percentage of total) (1)	(a) Meeting and interpretation services (Thousands of $) (2)	(b) Documentation services (Percentage of total) (3)	(b) Documentation services (Thousands of $) (4)	Total (Thousands of $) (2 + 4)
I. General Assembly					
Committee on Contributions (A/CN.2)	0.86	154.2	0.18	143.1	297.2
Committee on Applications for Review of Administrative Tribunal Judgements (A/AC.86)	0.09	15.9	0.74	596.5	612.5
Disarmament Commission (A/CN.10)	1.36	244.5	0.08	67.4	311.9
Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (A/AC.109)	0.62	111.6	0.95	766.2	877.8
Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean (A/AC.159)	0.03	5.3	0.01	10.2	15.5
Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/AC.121)	0.95	170.1	0.09	70.5	240.6
Committee on Relations with the Host Country (A/AC.154)	0.18	31.9	0.15	117.7	149.6
Committee on Conferences (A/AC.172)	0.30	53.2	0.23	186.4	239.5
Special Committee on the Charter and the Role of the Organization (A/AC.182)	0.74	132.9	0.16	127.2	260.1
Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (A/AC.183)	0.33	58.5	0.49	398.4	456.9
Committee on Information (A/AC.198)	0.30	53.2	0.15	118.3	171.4
Ad Hoc Committee on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court (A/AC.249)	1.75	313.6	1.00	810.0	1 123.6
Working Group on Security Council Membership (A/AC.247)	1.63	292.4	0.30	244.6	536.9
Working Group on an Agenda for Development (A/AC.250)	1.57	281.7	0.27	216.4	498.2
II. Economic and Social Council					
Committee for Programme and Coordination (E/AC.51)	1.95	350.8	0.59	476.5	827.4
Committee for Development Planning (E/AC.54)	0.30	53.2	0.00	0.0	53.2
Working Group on Consultative Arrangements with Non-Governmental Organizations (E/AC.70)	0.77	138.2	0.02	16.5	154.7

Subsidiary organ	(a) Meeting and interpretation services (Percentage of total) (1)	(a) Meeting and interpretation services (Thousands of $) (2)	(b) Documentation services (Percentage of total) (3)	(b) Documentation services (Thousands of $) (4)	Total (Thousands of $) (2 + 4)
Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (E/C.2)	1.33	239.2	0.12	98.8	338.0
Committee on Natural Resources (E/C.7)	0.36	63.8	0.68	548.4	612.1
Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development (E/C.13)	0.65	116.9	0.43	344.5	461.4
Statistical Commission (E/CN.3)	0.18	31.9	0.28	226.8	258.7
Commission for Social Development (E/CN.5)	0.68	122.3	0.32	259.1	381.4
Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6)	1.13	202.0	0.60	488.5	690.5
Population Commission (E/CN.9)	0.33	58.5	0.13	104.2	162.7
Commission on Sustainable Development (E/CN.17)	1.33	239.2	2.97	2 398.0	2 637.2
Total of organs listed	19.70	3 535.0	10.94	8 834.1	12 369.0